

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

For Release 2002/06/24 : AIA ID: AIA-RDP91-00682R000300030035-1

WP file

12

CONFIDENTIAL

Action

Control: 12398

EUR

FROM: Vienna

Rec'd: May 27, 1954
12:43 a.m.

Info

SS

G

SP

C

H

R

SCA

OLI

CIA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2916, May 26, 8 p.m.

Austrian Foreign Office displayed considerable concern and reluctance re proposed Kirsten refugee hearings (DEPTEL 3400), fearing, as Department anticipated, repercussions vis-a-vis Soviets. Minister Schoener, after discussion with Figl, recognized that Austrian Government not in position to protest project in view US occupation status, but provided Embassy advance notice of its intention to maintain complete disassociation. Also added that Austrian Government would not permit Austrian nationals to participate and would insist that all activities be carried out in US occupied premises. Schoener said that Kirsten as member of Congress would be welcome, but hoped that site of interviews could be changed to Munich or some other location outside Austria. Foreign Office fears that, despite closed nature of hearings, leaks would occur with consequent embarrassment for Austrian Government.

We share concern of Foreign Office but believe that, if committee adheres strictly in Austria to conditions outlined reference telegram, hearings could be conducted without undue repercussions.

YOST

EJH:MDG-3

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file